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Messenger

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Vinton Hotel on track to open in November

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The Extended Stay America Premier Suites Hotel in Vinton remains on track to open in early November. Vinton Town Council members and several members of town staff were treated to a tour of the building on October 14 by Project Superintendent Kevin Hill and General Contractor Rich Dudding of Integrated Construction, LLC. Council was introduced to the

hotel’s newly hired General Manager Josh Lester. He is now working full-time for the hotel owner and operator, KARA Hospitality. He has 12 years of experience in the hospitality industry.

Vinton Town Manager Pete Peters said, “We are working with corporate and the owner for a date for a ribbon cutting, although we do not anticipate the ribbon cutting until after the holidays in January.”

See **Hotel**, page 8



Capital Projects Manager Jamie Hurt and Council member Sabrina McCarty examine the kitchenette.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Council member Mike Stovall and Town Manager Pete Peters examine the exterior of the new Extended Stay America Premier Suites Hotel in Vinton.

McCarty and Stovall running for Vinton Town Council

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

On Nov. 3, voters in Vinton will be choosing two members of Town Council. Only two candidates are on the ballot– Sabrina McCarty and Mike Stovall, both incumbents. McCarty is running for her fourth term on council; she was first elected in 2014. Stovall was first elected in 2018 and is running for his third term. Both have served as vice mayor.

Stovall says he is seeking re-election because “I believe that today we have one of the best councils Vinton has ever seen. We have had some great people serving in the past;

however, I believe we have assembled a great team in Vinton with the current council and staff!”

“I am excited to run for re-election to see the projects that we have started finished, and being able to be part of watching Vinton go to the next level– the Vinton Hotel, Gish Mill, the property at Lee/Pollard, the McGimsey property, the 175 units at the Vinton Business Park, Wawa, and more.

“I believe we will have other businesses and companies that will want to come to Vinton because of its growth and the attention we have around Vinton.

“I look forward to

the next four years to continue to serve the citizens of Vinton and the community I love. I also want to thank the citizens of Vinton for giving me the opportunity to serve to this point.”

McCarty says her No. 1 priority is “to compensate our staff to be competitive with surrounding areas.” Other priorities include continued economic growth in the town, such as developing the fire property and vacant buildings.

She would like to provide opportunities for the younger folks (teenagers), possibly to include a small movie theater or drive-in theater, improvements to the

existing bowling alley, or an arcade. Other priorities are affordable housing and a walkable community.

“I’m excited for the hotel, the new and improved beautiful Vinton War Memorial, and Gish Mill openings.

“I would love for the town to be considered for a Hallmark movie– just kidding, but it would be cool!”

The following offices and races will appear on some, or all, of the Roanoke County ballots:

- U.S. Senate– Mark R. Warner (D) and Bert Mizusawa (R) (vote for one)
- U.S. House of Representatives, 6th Congressional District–



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Town Council members Sabrina McCarty and Mike Stovall are running for re-election on Nov. 3.

Beth A. Macy (D) and Ben L. Cline (R) (vote for one)

- 9th Congressional District– Joy A. Powers (D) and H. Morgan Griffith (R) (vote for one)
- Vinton Town Council– Sabrina M.

McCarty (I) and Michael W. Stovall (I) (vote for two) Three proposed Constitutional Amendments will also be on all full ballots:

See **Running**, page 8



GRAPHIC COURTESY TOWN OF VINTON

Vinton plans another Downtown Trick-or-Treat

The Town of Vinton invites children and families to celebrate Halloween at the annual Downtown Trick-or-Treat on Tuesday, Oct. 27, from 3 to 6 p.m. This popular community tradition offers a safe and festive environment for children of all ages to collect candy and treats from dozens of participating local businesses and community organizations.

Children are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes and bring a bag or container for their treats. The event will feature live music from DJ

RyRy of RSP Entertainment and a kids’ costume contest with fun prizes, along with plenty of candy and Halloween fun for the whole family.

To ensure the safety of participants, several downtown streets will close beginning at 2 p.m. on Tuesday. Affected streets include portions of Pollard Street, Walnut Avenue, Jackson Avenue, Lee Avenue, Cleveland Avenue, and Maple Street. Parking will be prohibited on these streets beginning

See **Trick-or-Treat**, page 7

Byrd band directors build a family

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The high school marching band competition season is coming to a close with the 30th Blue Ridge Festival of Bands to be held in Patterson Stadium at William Byrd High School on October 24. The competition begins at 1 p.m. with almost 20 bands competing. WBHS will perform in exhibition at 7:15 with the awards ceremony to follow.

William Byrd Band Boosters President

Amanda Biggs said, “We have an amazing marching band this year. I wish the community knew about how awesome the whole band program and kids are!”

Her son, Hayden, is a ninth grader at WBHS. He has been in band since sixth grade and “to say he loves it would be an understatement. In May, he auditioned for the Roanoke Youth Symphony Orchestra (RYSO) and made it! It was a big deal and still is!”

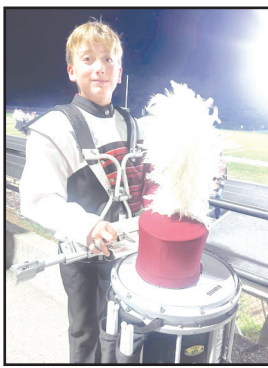
Hayden has been in the marching band since eighth grade. He plays

the snare this year. He’s also in concert and jazz band.

“He does private lessons on Wednesday, so we literally have band every day of the week (RYSO is on Sundays),” Biggs says.

“William Byrd Band Director Dan Plybon and Denise Aspell, band director at William Byrd Middle School, have helped with his love and passion for band. Hayden’s the only one in Vinton who is in the Youth Symphony!”

See **Band**, page 7



PHOTOS COURTESY WBHS BAND

Hayden Biggs (left) and Drum Major Zane Telsch

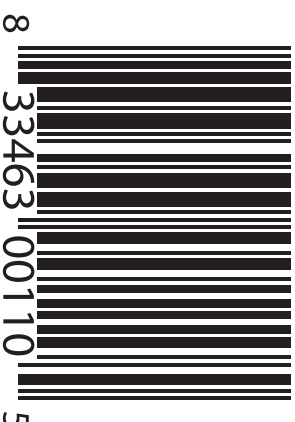




PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS
Pictured left to right are Rosie's Marketing Manager Jeff Spaugh, General Manager Todd Lear, and Lions Steve Shimp, Gary Myers, Justin Fix, Steve Haldren, and Chris McCarty

Rosie's makes another donation to Vinton Lions

Rosie's Gaming Emporium has made another substantial donation to the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club which will be used for humanitarian purposes in the community.

According to Lions Club Marketing Officer John Berry, "Rosie's has made five contributions to the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club (VBLC) totaling \$35,000 over the last six years. The club used the bulk of these funds toward the Vinton War Memorial playground project. Funds were also used for bus stops at Kroger and Precision Fabrics as part of the Vinton Metro upgrade."

The Vinton Breakfast Lions Club has been a leader in the Roanoke Lions support of the Carilion Pediatric Cancer Center. A Rosie's donation to the VBLC was used toward the center's multi-purpose activity room dubbed "The Lions' Den."

Rosie's donation is part of the "Rosie's Gives Back" program which invests in the local community. The program has now made monetary and in-kind donations totaling \$5.4 million to the communities in which they operate.

- Vinton Messenger staff report

William Byrd observes Military Appreciation Night



Cadets prepare to welcome the Terriers to the field.

William Byrd High School celebrated not just the football win (27-10) over William Fleming on October 16, but the heroes who have served the country on what was Military Appreciation Night.

There were huge American flags and the Navy National Defense Cadet Corps marching, saluting, and welcoming the team to the field. The Terrier football team was dressed in special uniforms in honor of the occasion, the Tiny Terrier cheerleaders joined the middle and high school teams to perform, fireworks were set off during the national anthem, and the Marching Terriers band performed.

- Vinton Messenger staff report



The Terriers sported new uniforms in honor of Military Appreciation Night.



PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER
A Marching Terrier

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Lancerlot treating community to Halloween celebration



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF LANCERLOT

The Lancerlot Sports Complex once again invites the community to celebrate Halloween by trick-or-treating at the Lancerlot on October 29 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Guests are invited to come in costume and visit all three floors of the facility and ice rink— and collect candy at each stop along the way. At the end, enter to win a special prize.

This is a family-friendly, community event open to the public. It does not conflict with Vinton's Downtown Trick-or-Treat, which is earlier in the week.

The Lancerlot is located at 1110 Vinyard Road. For more information, visit LancerLot Sports Complex on Facebook.

-Submitted by the Lancerlot

The Day Everything Changed: Preparing for a feeding tube

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Part 8 of a series on ALS from the perspective of those who have been recently diagnosed and their caregivers.

My husband Danny Adams was diagnosed with ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) in June. This is a motor neuron disease in which the motor neurons affecting nerves in your brain and spinal cord gradually die. As of yet, there is no cure.

For four months, we have noticed his swallowing deteriorating. We have done our best to find foods and liquids that he could swallow without choking or coughing—soft foods, pureed foods, thick liquids, thin liquids. But he has continued to lose weight and he is very, very tired. He chokes on medication. Eating a meal or snack completely wears him out. His medical team is concerned about his aspirating food or drink leading to an infection in his lungs. A recent swallowing evaluation showed things are not getting better.

On Friday, he will have a feeding tube inserted by a gastroenterologist, a PEG – Percutaneous (through the skin) Endoscopic (using an endoscope or flexible tube to view the digestive tract) Gastrostomy (opening in the stomach).

His diet will become a high-protein and high-calorie formula liquid which I, or someone, will insert through the feeding tube with a syringe.

My biggest fear is not being able to keep the tube clean enough and cause an infection.

I feel sad that he won't be able to eat— he has always enjoyed food and I enjoy cooking.

He says he mainly feels relieved because eating exhausts him. "It's worth giving up food to have some energy. I don't want to be tired all the time anymore."

Although we have had a host of phone calls from his medical care team telling us how to prepare for the surgery and his aftercare, we still feel totally clueless. We have been told that before we leave the hospital, someone will show us

how to use and clean everything. We have also received numerous phone calls from faceless people who want us to sign up for formula shipments through them and give them our insurance and personal information.

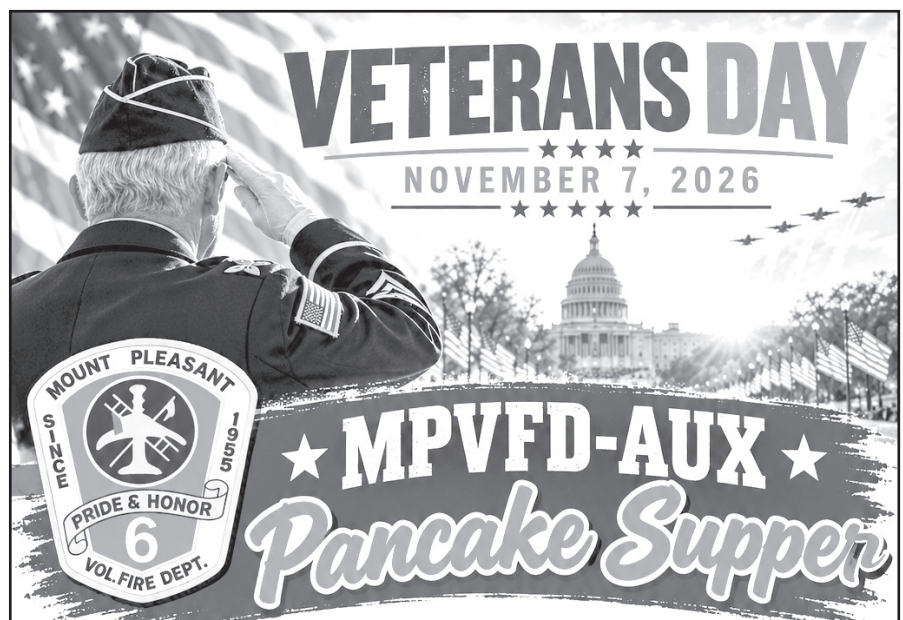
What we know is that Danny needs to take a shower with disinfectant Dial soap the night before and the morning of surgery. We won't be told the time he is scheduled for the procedure until the night before.

Once we arrive at the hospital, it will be an hour and a half before the surgery takes place. He will be sedated, but not put to sleep, and most likely can go home the same day. At this point, we don't know where the daily formula will be shipped from, which company will ship it, how much it will cost, or how much of the bill insurance will cover.

There are many, many conditions besides ALS which lead to the placement of a feeding tube.

Details of the procedure next week.

Mount Pleasant VFD Auxiliary hosting free pancake supper for veterans



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MPVFD

The Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Dept. Auxiliary is hosting its annual pancake supper on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the fire station at 2909 Jae Valley Road. Veterans eat free. The charge for the general public is \$5 a plate. The meal includes pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits, sausage gravy, coffee, water, and juice.

In past years, the event has been an early morning pancake breakfast, but the organizers have changed it this year to a pancake supper.

Mount Pleasant is rich in military service. There are several members of the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire

Dept. who served or are currently serving. They are Recruit Firefighter Danielle Rouel, who currently serves with 27 years of service in the U.S. Army; Lt. William Prescott with 11 years with the Army; and Recruit Firefighter Chan Kim currently serving with nine years of service in the Army. Kim is currently studying through the U.S. Army to become a physician's assistant.

Firefighter Rich Emmond is currently serving with four years of service in the U.S. Army. Firefighter Adam Dean is serving with two years

See **Supper**, page 4

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS



The Myrtle Beach Gang: front, Susan and Charlene; back, Susan, Lynnly, Angie, Stacie, and Lisa

By Angie Chewning

When I say it's been a busy couple of months – I mean busy! The Vinton Chamber had our season finale of Mingle at the Market on Sept 26. And we went out with a BANG!! I cannot say enough “thank you’s” to our sponsors, the Town of Vinton, volunteers, food trucks, vendors, bands, and, of course, everyone who came out to support our events. We are already working on next year!

Can't wait to share the details. We also held our Fall Golf Tournament. Again, thank you to all our sponsors, businesses who donated amazing raffle prizes, Blue Hills Golf Club, volunteers, and, of course, all the teams that came out for a day of fun! To round it all out, we held our Annual Fall Festival, although it was a bit damp at times, the weather actually held out to get most of the day in. Thank you to all the vendors

who stuck it out, sponsors, volunteers; thank you to all out downtown businesses, the Town of Vinton, and to everyone who came out to shop. I also have had some fun in between those events. Many know that I lived in Myrtle Beach for 18 years. A group of girls that I worked with at the airport (car rental) take an annual trip. This year they chose Roanoke. What a great time we had catching up after almost 25 years! They live all over now–

Charleston, South Carolina, Knoxville, Tennessee, Florida, Myrtle Beach, and Baltimore. Can't wait to join them again, who knows where! A family reunion is always something special, but this one had an extra special surprise. Drake, Hannah and Lainey surprised us all (thank you, Hannah Chewning and Dean and Jenna Thompson for keeping the secret) at Cousin Mark's annual Chewning fall get-together. We had no idea

that they would be there and a great day turned even greater! The food was amazing and conversations and memories are so much fun and heartwarming. We all shared so much of our childhood, growing up visiting Grandma Della and Grandad Pet every Sunday “in the country” sharing in the day. Hope we don't wait another year to visit again. Thank you, Mark and Karen, for opening up your home and for the goodies.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANGIE CHEWNING

Chewning Family Reunion (from left): front row, Hannah, Drake and Lainey Lewis, Angie Chewning, Bootie, Shirley Chewning, Terri Chewning Wright, Alvin Chewning, Mark Chewning, and Bill Chewning; back row, Greg Chewning, Keith and Patti Thompson, Dean and Jenn Thompson, Hallie and Donavan Rowland, Teresa Chewning, Timming and Hannah Chenwing, Julie Creasy, Mike Wright, Alice Meador, Krut, Shirley Delong, Roger Creasy, Kelly and Todd Hambrick and Greg Boitnott. No sure where Maren, Tyler, Phoebe and Elara were, but they were there, too.

Abell to present annual Medicare update

Shannon Abell, the former director of Senior Services with the Local Office on Aging, will be presenting new information on Medicare changes for 2027 in the Thrasher United Methodist Church Main Sanctuary on November 18 at 1:30 p.m. Thrasher UMC is located at 707 East Washington Avenue in Vinton.

Abell graduated in 1976 from Virginia Tech with a B.S. in Finance as an insurance major. He joined the Local Office on Aging in 1984 and

was director of Senior Services and coordinator of the (VICAP) Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program and the (SMP) Senior Medicare Patrol program. He retired from LOA in December 2020 after 37 years of service.

Prior to joining LOA, Abell worked for seven years with Allstate Insurance Co. as an Office Operations supervisor. He previously volunteered with AARP as a Community Ambassador for five years. His zoom



FILE GRAPHIC

presentation on November 18 will be on the changes to Medicare Parts A, B, C and D for 2027.

~Submitted by Shannon Abell



PHOTO COURTESY OF MPLC

From left, Cindy Pasternak, sponsor of Rylan Mulligan, Jimmy Doran and his sponsor Steve Pasternak, being inducted by Lion District Governor Babs Newman.

Mount Pleasant Lions induct two new members

At its last meeting, the Mount Pleasant Lions Club entertained the Lions District Governor Babs Newman (Cave Spring Club), and after congratulating the club on its successes over the last year, she exhorted the members to continue their good efforts and challenged them to achieve new

goals. One of the most favorable tasks a district governor performs is the induction of new Lions members, and she was pleased to induct two into the Mount Pleasant Club.

See Lions, page 7

BAPTIST (SOUTHERN)
MINERAL SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH & CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - 1030 Bible Lane, Vinton, Va. 24179. Church Phone 890-4465. Rev. Jason Gault. Sunday Services: Traditional Service, 8:45 AM, Sunday School, 10:00 AM, Contemporary Service, 11:00 AM, Evening Worship 6:00 PM, Wednesday Services: AWANA 6:30 PM, Bible Study 7:00 PM

LYNN HAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH, 1501 E Washington Ave., Vinton, VA 24179, Phone 540-342-6102, Pastor: John E Hackworth Jr., website lynnhavenbaptistchurch.com. Sundays: Sunday School at 9:30am-ages 0 to 5th grade, Children’s Church Services 10:30 Sunday, Worship at 10:30 am, Youth at 6:00pm, Wednesdays: Awana at 6:00pm, Prayer Meeting at 6:00pm

CHRISTIAN (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
Belmont Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 1101 Jamison Ave SE, Roanoke, VA 24013. Growing God’s Kingdom one neighbor at a time. At Belmont Christian Church, we focus on faith, family and community. We invite you to join us this Sunday and share in our worship and fellowship services, Sunday School 9:45am, Youth Sunday School 9:45am, Worship Service 11:00am. For more information visit www.belmontchristian.net or call 540-343-7502

ECKANKAR
Eckankar, The Path of Spiritual Freedom, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. We offer a Spiritual Event on the 2nd. Sunday of each month. The program may be a Light and Sound Service, a Spiritual video and discussion, or other topics and techniques to help Raise Your Spiritual IQ. The Roanoke ECK Center is located at 1420 3rd. St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. For more information visit www.eck-va.org or call 540- 353-5365. People of all faiths are welcome.

FOURSQUARE
EVANGEL CHURCH - 2360 Hardy Road, Vinton (corner of Hardy Road and Feather Road), 540-982-3694, www.evangel4sq.com, Pastor Tim Wright. Contemporary Worship Service Sunday, 10AM. Bible Study Wednesday 11AM-12PM. “Building People to Change Our World”

NAZARENE
FIRST CHURCH OF NAZARENE, 728 Highland Ave., SE, Roanoke, Virginia. 342-4003. Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Wednesday Night Bible Study 7 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN
CAMPBELL MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1130 Hardy Rd, Vinton, VA, 540-343-1842; cmcp2verizon.net Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Su.ndays; 2nd Sunday Session; Monday Noon Bible Study; Tuesdays & Thursdays Stretch Class 9:00am; 1st Tuesdays Deacons; Wednesday Choir 7:00pm; Monday Girl Scouts 7:00pm; 3rd Saturday Men’s Breakfast 8:00am. Rev. Jonathan Moelker, pastor

UNITED METHODIST
THREE OAKS FELLOWSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 1026 Gravel Hill Road, Vinton, Va. 540-512-8070. Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rob Colwell. Sunday School - 9:45 a.m., Worship 11 a.m.

VINTON WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Peace in the Chaos

Read Luke 21:1 through 22:71

Do we ever look at our world and ask, “What happened?” The moral climate seems to have plunged. Sin is rampant. Nuclear war threatens. A bad economy has become the new way of life. And what’s with all these record-breaking natural disasters?

It’s easy to wonder if the end of world is near and become so afraid that we panic.

“When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away” (Luke 21:9).

Many times through the past two thousand years, people have panicked over the state of the world. Jesus had a word for them and for us: “Do not be frightened.”

The world may change, but God is still in control.

Bad times can bring good results. As society disintegrates people tend to turn to God, and revival can occur. Challenges even make believers depend on God more. Our survival plan should be to prepare ourselves spiritually for whatever God brings—in good times or bad.

Challenge for Today: Think of a way to point people to Jesus when they express their fears about the future.

Quicklook: Luke 21:5–18

If you would like to see your church services listed here in the Vinton Messenger contact Tucker Frye at Cell: (540) 389-9355 tfrye@ourvalley.org

Vinton enacting traffic-calming measures

Town of Vinton officials have announced traffic-calming measures for the E. Cleveland Avenue and S. Poplar Street intersection. The town had received concerns from residents regarding vehicle speeds and traffic safety at that intersection, including requests for the installation of a four-way stop.

Following a review of traffic data and roadway conditions, town staff and the Public Works Committee determined that installing a four-way stop at this location was not a safe or appropriate traffic control measure.

Stop signs are installed based on established traffic engineering standards to ensure they improve, rather than reduce, roadway safety. Installing a stop sign where it is not warranted can create unintended safety concerns, including increased rear-end collisions, driver non-compliance, and a false sense of security for motorists and pedestrians.

To better understand traffic conditions, speed studies were conducted over a six-day period on E. Cleveland Avenue.

- Eastbound Traffic (6-Day Study)
- 10,929 vehicles traveled eastbound
 - 3,385 vehicles exceeded the posted speed limit of 25 mph
 - 110 vehicles traveled between 35 and 42 mph
 - 4 vehicles traveled between 43 and 50 mph
- Westbound Traffic (6-Day Study)
- 9,472 vehicles traveled westbound
 - 6,721 vehicles exceeded the posted speed limit of 25 mph
 - 725 vehicles traveled between 35 and 42 mph\
 - 15 vehicles traveled between 43 and 50 mph
 - 3 vehicles traveled between 51 and 58 mph
- While the data indicates that a number of motorists are exceeding the posted speed limit, the review found that a four-way stop was not the appropriate solution.

Instead, the town is implementing several proven traffic-calming measures intended to reduce vehicle speeds while maintaining safe traffic flow.

The following actions have been approved and should be installed by October 30:

- Installation of permanent Halo Speed Limit Signs to increase driver awareness of the posted speed limit
- Installation of temporary speed cushions in both directions on E. Cleveland Avenue, similar to those recently implemented in Roanoke City

A follow-up speed study will take place after the temporary speed cushions are installed to evaluate their effectiveness. Permanent installation of the speed cushions will occur if the follow-up study demonstrates a meaningful reduction in vehicle speeds.

The town will also continue evaluating additional traffic-calming strategies, including:

- Pavement speed limit stencils
- Rumble strips where appropriate
- Additional centerline and shoulder striping on S. Poplar Street
- Enhanced advance warning signs and the potential installation of illuminated signage or mast-arm-mounted signs

The safety of residents, pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists remains the town's highest priority. The town appreciates the residents who brought their concerns forward and encourages continued community involvement as these traffic-calming measures are implemented and evaluated. Residents with questions regarding this project may contact the Town Manager's Office at 540-983-0607.



FILE GRAPHIC

works operations, and other situations that may impact the community. The town may also use the system to share important public service announcements and updates regarding municipal operations including traffic impacts, special events, public meetings, and other community information.

Messages can be delivered directly to residents through their preferred communication methods, including text messages, mobile phones, home phones, email, and other available channels. By utilizing multiple communication platforms, the town can provide real-time information and updates to help residents stay informed and prepared.

Residents and businesses may already be included in the Vinton Alerts system through publicly available telephone records or from records obtained from the former alerts provider, CodeRED. However, the town strongly encourages all residents and business owners and their employees to register online to verify their information, add mobile phone numbers and email addresses, and customize their notification preferences. Registering ensures that individuals receive alerts through their preferred communication methods and allows the town to provide the most accurate and timely information possible during emergencies and other important events. The Everbridge system can recognize and filter duplicate contact information.

“Effective communication is essential to public safety and community preparedness,” said Town Manager Richard Peters. “The implementation of Everbridge allows the Town of Vinton to quickly deliver important information to our residents through a trusted and reliable platform. Whether it’s a weather emergency, road closure, or other critical event, Vinton Alerts will help ensure our community receives timely updates when they need them most.”

Vinton Alerts replaces the town's previous emergency notification system, CodeRED. Residents who were previously enrolled in CodeRED should register for Vinton Alerts to ensure their contact information and notification preferences are current.

The Town of Vinton's adoption of Everbridge reflects its ongoing commitment to enhancing emergency preparedness, public safety, and community engagement through modern communication technology.

Residents and businesses and their employees can register for Vinton Alerts by visiting: <https://member.everbridge.net/76864345342209/login>.

For more information about Vinton Alerts and the Everbridge notification system, visit: www.vintonva.gov/vintonalerts or email vintoninfo@vintonva.gov.

-Submitted by Town of Vinton

Town launches new Everbridge Community Alert System

The Town of Vinton has launched Vinton Alerts, a new emergency notification system powered by Everbridge, the nation's leading critical event management and public warning platform.

Vinton Alerts provides residents and businesses and their employees with timely notifications during emergencies and other important community events. The system will be used to communicate critical information related to severe weather, flooding, utility outages, police/public safety incidents, road closures, public

Supper

from page 2

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10			
11					12					13	14	15	
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			64							65			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Nocturnal rodent

11. Give temporarily

12. Frivolousness

16. Military arm

17. "Westworld" actor

Harris

18. Persian Gulf port city

19. Air hostesses

24. Partner to "Pa"

25. Percussion instrument

26. Raincoats

27. Lower the light

28. Asian mountain range

29. Every one of two or more

30. Lack of difficulty

31. A public announcement of a proposed marriage

33. Reduces in size

34. Make an impact

CLUES DOWN

1. Colorless part of blood

2. Of a main artery

3. Photog's tool

4. Blues Traveler hit "But ___"

5. Grew older

6. Not the leader

7. ___ Lang; country singer

8. A driver's license is one

9. Nests of pheasants

10. Antelopes

13. One quintillion bytes

14. Japanese lute

15. A type of cat

20. It cools your home

21. Dorm official

22. Pouches

23. German trigraph

27. Form of Persian

29. ___ route

30. Upper body part

31. Bridge building degree

32. Indicates position

CLUES ACROSS

38. Serviceman

39. A French river

40. Prehistoric people

43. Messenger ribonucleic acid

44. "Layla" singer

Clapton

45. Ancient Greek sophist

49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)

50. "Top Gun: Maverick" actor

Powell

51. A way to disentangle

53. Atomic #93

54. Manifesting approval

56. Indigo bush

58. Larry and Curly's pal

59. Off-Broadway theater award

60. Fencers

63. Masses of fish eggs

64. Passerine birds

65. Arrange systematically

CLUES DOWN

33. Political action committee

34. Edible nuts

35. Front part of a quadruped

36. Locate

37. Geological time

38. Of I

40. Northern Utah city

41. They work in the trenches

42. Hammer is one

44. Tall deciduous tree

45. Performers

46. Slang for mistake

47. More open

48. Most slick

50. Provokes

51. Home of the NCAA's Flyers

52. Sodium

54. Large fish of the mackerel family

55. Not one

57. ___ and behold

61. Atomic #21

62. "The Great Lakes State"

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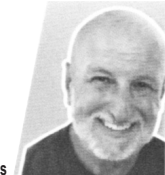
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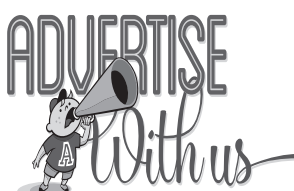
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Members

from page 7

sessions scheduled for the Garden City Elementary School Pac-A-Snack program.

The club then chose the last Saturday in November as the date for the annual Breakfast with Santa where the community is invited to have pancakes, sausage and beverage. The event is targeted toward young children, but experience has shown that many parents and

grandparents show up to see their youngsters interact with Santa and perhaps get an idea of what gift to get for Christmas morning.

The free food is a bonus attraction along with the Mount Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department bringing a fire truck over for the kids to climb on and perhaps toot the big horn.

And finally the question was asked, Did you hear about the online seniors dating site? It matches couples that are on the same medications– it’s called “Relationscripts”!

~Submitted by Mount Pleasant Lions Club

Running

from page 1

Question: Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to (i) protect the freedom to make personal decisions about prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, birth control, abortion, miscarriage management, and fertility care; (ii) protect doctors, nurses, and patients from being punished for these decisions; and (iii) allow for restrictions on access to abortion during the third

trimester of pregnancy except when the patient’s health is at risk or the pregnancy cannot survive?

Question: Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to (i) remove the ban on same- sex marriage; (ii) affirm that two adults may marry regardless of sex, gender, or race; and (iii) require all legally valid marriages to be treated equally under the law?

Question: Should the

Constitution of Virginia be amended (i) to provide for the fundamental right to vote in the Commonwealth, (ii) to revise the qualifications of voters so that a person convicted of a felony is not entitled to vote during his period of incarceration but is automatically invested with the right to vote upon release from incarceration, and (iii) to update the existing prohibition on voting by persons found

to be mentally incompetent to instead apply to persons who have been found to lack the capacity to understand the act of voting?

Early voting began in Vinton and at the Brambleton Center Satellite Office on September 18 and continues Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. until October 30.

You may also vote at the Roanoke County Elections Office on Chestnut Avenue in

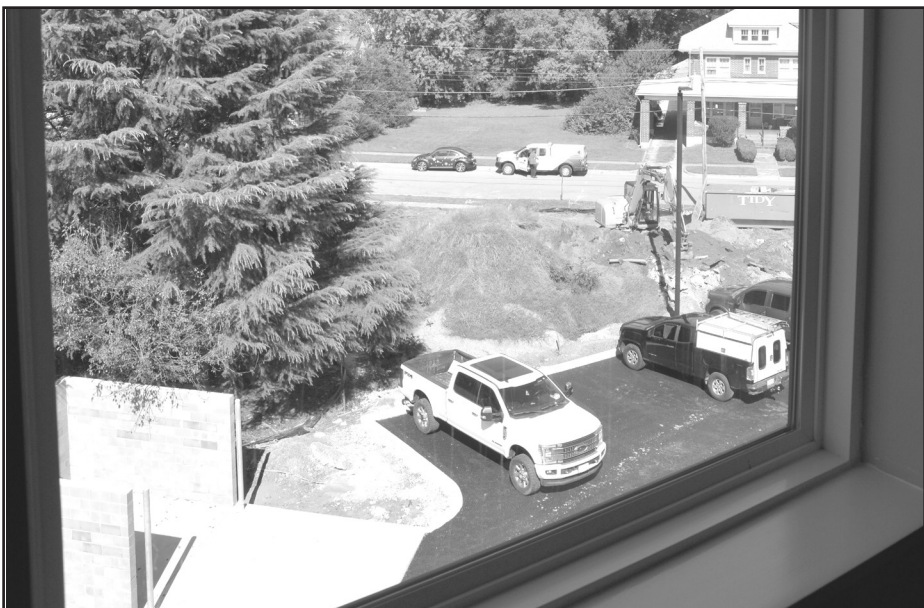
Vinton and the Brambleton Center Elections Satellite Office on Brambleton Avenue in Roanoke on:

- Saturday, October 24, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Sunday, October 25, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and
- Saturday, October 31, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If you are unsure of the location of your voting precinct visit <https://voterview.roanokecountyva.gov/>.

Hotel

from page 1



View from the fourth floor

At the time of the tour, according to Hill, there were several items on the to-do list: finish painting and trim, asphalt to be poured on October 26, along with sidewalks, landscaping (using river rock mulch), inspection of elevators,

addition of signage, delivery of furniture, installation of hardware, and substantial cleaning.

Once those tasks are completed, permits will be acquired and the fire marshals will approve the facility.

Peters said, “They

are attempting to get all inspections completed by October 30 in order to get their occupancy permit. Assuming that goes well, they anticipate an opening on November 9.”

He also shared that the town will be building



Exterior view of the new hotel from Pollard Street

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

a new retaining wall along Pollard Street after the building is complete– about 15 feet in height at its highest point.

The hotel is modern in style with four stories and 92 one- and two-bedroom units with kitchenettes (that’s what qualifies it as extended stay). There is a breakfast area, a laundry, and a fabulous view

of the valley from the fourth floor windows. The largest room is handicapped accessible.

Owners say that the hotel will hire at least 10 full-time employees.

The hotel represents a \$12 million investment in the local economy. At the intersection of Pollard Street and W. Virginia Avenue, it is within walking distance of downtown Vinton and all its restaurants and businesses.

The ground-breaking ceremony was held in September 2025, so construction has moved quickly and steadily over approximately 14 months.

The hotel project was envisioned several years

ago but interrupted by the COVID pandemic, which sent the town back to the drawing board.

This council and administration pressed on with the project, seeing the need for a hotel due to local tourist attractions, sports tournaments at the nearby county parks and the Lancerlot, as well as family events, such as weddings at the Vinton War Memorial and other venues. The hotel mainly targets traveling professionals such as nurses and those working in the construction industry who need long-term rentals, but also accommodates shorter stays.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – QUESTION 1

To Be Voted On at the November 3, 2026, Election

BALLOT QUESTION



Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to (i) protect the freedom to make personal decisions about prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, birth control, abortion, miscarriage management, and fertility care; (ii) protect doctors, nurses, and patients from being punished for these decisions; and (iii) allow for restrictions on access to abortion during the third trimester of pregnancy except when the patient’s health is at risk or the pregnancy cannot survive?

EXPLANATION FOR VOTERS

QUESTION 1

Present Law

Currently, the Virginia Constitution does not explicitly provide to its citizens a right to reproductive freedom nor does it explicitly protect or prohibit certain kinds of health care procedures or decisions.

Proposed Amendment

The proposed amendment would add to the Virginia Constitution's Bill of Rights the fundamental right to make and carry out decisions about a person’s own reproductive care with only certain, specific exceptions. The proposed amendment specifically allows the state government to pass laws to regulate abortion care in the third trimester of pregnancy, but requires any such law to allow for abortion care when it is medically needed to protect the life and health of the pregnant person or because the fetus is not viable.

FULL TEXT OF AMENDMENT

[Proposed new language is underlined. Deleted old language is ~~stricken~~.]

ARTICLE I

BILL OF RIGHTS

Section 11-A. Fundamental right to reproductive freedom.

That every individual has the fundamental right to reproductive freedom, including the ability to make and carry out decisions relating to one's own prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, contraception, abortion care, miscarriage management, and fertility care.

An individual's right to reproductive freedom shall not be, directly or indirectly, denied, burdened, or infringed upon unless justified by a compelling state interest achieved by the least restrictive means.

Notwithstanding the above, the Commonwealth may regulate the provision of abortion care in the third trimester, provided that in no circumstance shall the Commonwealth prohibit an abortion (i) that in the professional judgment of a physician is medically indicated to protect the life or physical or mental health of the pregnant individual or (ii) when in the professional judgment of a physician the fetus is not viable.

The Commonwealth shall not discriminate in the protection or enforcement of this fundamental right.

The Commonwealth shall not penalize, prosecute, or otherwise take adverse action against an individual based on such individual's own exercise of this fundamental right or such individual's own actual, potential, perceived, or alleged pregnancy outcomes, including miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion. The Commonwealth shall not penalize, prosecute, or otherwise take adverse action against any individual for aiding or assisting another individual in exercising such other individual's right to reproductive freedom with such other individual's voluntary consent.

For the purposes of this section, a state interest is compelling only if it is for the limited purpose of maintaining or improving the health of an individual seeking care, consistent with accepted clinical standards of care and evidence-based medicine and does not infringe on that individual's autonomous decision making.

This section shall be self-executing. Any provision of this section held invalid shall be severable from the remaining portions of the section.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – QUESTION 2

To Be Voted On at the November 3, 2026, Election

BALLOT QUESTION



Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to (i) remove the ban on same-sex marriage; (ii) affirm that two adults may marry regardless of sex, gender, or race; and (iii) require all legally valid marriages to be treated equally under the law?

EXPLANATION FOR VOTERS

QUESTION 2

Present Law

Marriages, civil unions, and other legal relationships with the same rights, benefits, and effects of marriage between persons of the same sex or gender are prohibited under Virginia’s Constitution. This prohibition is no longer enforceable as a result of the United States Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* in 2015, but the prohibition on marriages between persons of the same sex or gender remains in the state’s Constitution. If the Supreme Court were to overturn its previous decision, that prohibition would be enforceable again.

Proposed Amendment

The proposed amendment removes the prohibition on marriages between persons of the same sex or gender from the Virginia Constitution’s Bill of Rights. It is replaced with the fundamental right to marry, requiring the state to recognize and treat equally under the law any lawful marriage between two adult persons, regardless of the sex, gender, or race of either person. The proposed amendment prohibits the state from denying a marriage license to two adult persons because of their sex, gender, or race.

FULL TEXT OF AMENDMENT

[Proposed new language is underlined. Deleted old language is ~~stricken~~.]

ARTICLE I

BILL OF RIGHTS

Section 15-A. Marriage.

That only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by this Commonwealth and its political subdivisions marriage is one of the vital personal rights essential to the orderly pursuit of happiness.

This Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall not create or recognize a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance, or effects of marriage deny the issuance of a marriage license to two adult persons seeking a lawful marriage on the basis of the sex, gender, or race of such persons. Nor shall this Commonwealth or its political subdivisions create or recognize another union, partnership, or other legal status to which is assigned the rights, benefits, obligations, qualities, or effects of marriage. This Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall recognize any lawful marriage between two adult persons and treat such marriages equally under the law, regardless of the sex, gender, or race of such persons.



Action from last Saturday's Sandlot Super Bowl 8U tournament games at Bogle Field. Above left, Vinton's Stewart Richardson makes a tackle in the backfield. Middle, Terriers line up on offense. Above right, Quinn LaPard fights his way over the goal line to score a touchdown. Far right, Wrigley Bernard hands off to Brooks Martin as the Vinton line blocks. Right, Vinton's Aiden Havens (#7) makes a tackle. Below, Briggs Terrell scores against Salem.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Vinton teams eliminated from SSB

Sandlot Super Bowl football tournament semifinals are this Saturday but Vinton won't be included. The last three Vinton teams in the three tournaments were eliminated in quarterfinal games last Saturday.

Vinton had two teams playing in the 8U tournament I at Cave Spring's Bogle Field and both went down to defeat. The Vinton-Saunders team lost to Glenvar and the Vinton-Havens team lost to Salem. Glenvar and Salem will play each other in a semifinal game in Franklin County this Saturday while Cave Spring and Botetourt play in the other semifinal at Bogle.

In the 10U tournament the Vinton-Smith team had been eliminated the week prior. Semifinal games, both in Franklin County, find North Roanoke against Salem and Botetourt taking on Glenvar.

The Vinton-Wendell team played in the 12U tournament at Northside last Saturday and lost to Salem. This week both semis are at Bogle with Salem taking on Cave Spring-Ellis and the top seed, Cave Spring-Barmore, playing Botetourt.

This Saturday's winners advance to the championship games at Salem Stadium on November 7. The 8U championship will kick off at 9 am followed by the 10U at 10:30 am and the 12U final at noon.

BYRD FOOTBALL

continued from page 10

Botetourt beat the Terriers, 35-21, to end their season.

In the meantime Harless left to coach at Union High, near where he grew up, and LB hired Nick Leftwich to take over the program. The Terriers are certainly familiar with Leftwich as he coached against them with Cave Spring, then for the last three years in the Blue Ridge District at William Fleming. Leftwich wasn't aware of what he was stepping into with the Byrd-LB rivalry.

"Not being here, I didn't realize what a rivalry this has been," said Leftwich. "I told our players they have to give everyone the same treatment. If they're going to get super hyped for Byrd they should have that same mindset for whoever we play."

Byrd coach Brad Lutz is going into the game with much the same attitude.

"Our players know the importance of this game," he said. "Every week, we make it about our prep and our performance and less about the opponent. If we make it about who we play, we aren't focused on what we need to do as a team."

The Byrd staff doesn't expect to see a big difference in this year's LB team.

"Their scheme offensively isn't much different than previous years," said Lutz. "They take pride in running the football. Defensively it is different, but very familiar to us."

Byrd is coming off a big win over William Fleming last Friday. The Terriers defeated the Colonels 27-10 in Vinton and it was the annual "Soldier Tribute Game." That's always a special game for the Byrdmen and this year was no different, with special uniforms and a special cause to play for.

"Our Soldier Tribute Game is unique in comparison to most military appreciation games," said Lutz. "Our program is connected to three soldiers who gave their life in selfless service to our country. Those soldiers are Army SPC Clarence Adams, Army SPC Brian Anderson and Army LT Terry Plunk. Their life and sacrifice are protected by the players who have played for us for the 22 years.

"Our Soldier Tribute Game is a unique opportunity for our coaching staff to teach our players the true meaning of sacrifice, while honors our fallen heroes. That is important to us and important to the development of our players as young men."

After a scoreless first quarter Byrd trailed Fleming 10-7 at halftime. Gray Matthews had a touchdown run and Lukas Riddle kicked the extra point.

As has been the case in recent games, the Terriers turned it up a notch or two in the third quarter. They took the lead on a five yard run by Matthews and went up 21-10 on a 23 yard TD gallop by quarterback Carter Gray. Matthews then gave Byrd some breathing room in the fourth quarter with his third score, a one yard run. A two point try failed but the Terriers were happy with a 27-10 win after losing to Fleming, 55-7, last season.

"Every win is important, but earning a win over Blue Ridge District opponents are even more important," said Lutz. "William Fleming is a solid football team, and we were able to earn important playoff



Left, Austin Kroner returns a kick and, right, Carter Gray is off and running for a 23 yard touchdown.

PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER

points since they are a 5A team."

Matthews finished with 271 yards rushing on 31 carries and Gray had 44 yards on eight attempts. Conley Serreno had three carries for 19 yards.

On defense Thomas Purcell led with 10 tackles. Zane Taylor had eight and Mason Hershel and Lukas

Johnson had seven tackles each. Johnson also had two sacks and three tackles behind the line of scrimmage.

Byrd's jayvees lost to Fleming last week and hope to bounce back tonight with a home game Lord Botetourt.



Undefeated Terriers

The Vinton Terriers 12U soccer team finished the recently completed season with an undefeated record. They are coached by Michael Terrell, Sarah Bernard and Curt Hetherington. Front row, left to right: Luciana Rossello, Kathryn Bray, Dylan Hoke, Brielle Deschambault, Makayla Dogan, Olivia Summers, Lucy Bernard and Coach Sarah Bernard. Back row, left to right: Coach Curt Hetherington, Chloe Hetherington, Charlotte Bray, Lacy Seay, Braylee Lavergne, Anna Aldrich, Emma Mikesell, Londyn Terrell and Coach Mike Terrell. Leah St. Clair is not pictured.

PHOTO BY JESSA WRIGHT

SPORTS

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Byrd will play Lord Botetourt in big rivalry game

Terriers beat Fleming in Soldier Tribute Game

The William Byrd football team will be in Daleville Friday for a big Blue Ridge District game against host Lord Botetourt. It's not only a big rivalry game and a district game, it's an important game in the Region 3D rankings with the post-season just around the corner.

With three weeks of regular season games to go

the Terriers remain atop the Region 3D standings. Three undefeated teams, all 7-0, fill the first three spots with Byrd at 27.14, Magna Vista at 26.68 and Carroll County at 26.00. This week Magna Vista is at 4-3 Tunstall and Carroll County will host 6-1 Radford, a team that lost only to Byrd.

The Terriers would like to have that top spot in the post-season, as that would mean home games for as long as they survived in the region tournament. Byrd has won their last 13 games at Patterson Stadium, dating back to midseason of 2024.

This is a big game for Lord Botetourt as well.

The Cavaliers are currently 4-3 and ranked fourth in the region in a close battle with Bassett, Northside and Tunstall for a first round home game. A win over Byrd would give the Cavaliers a boat load of points in the VHSL ranking system.

This has been a big rivalry over the years, especially since Jamie Harless came to Daleville to coach the Cavaliers. In the 14 years Harless was at LB the Cavaliers held a 10-9 edge in 19 games. They've met in the playoffs five times during that span with Byrd winning three of the five. Last year in Daleville

continued on page 9



Above left, Thomas Purcell makes a tackle and, below left, Ryan Carroll brings down a Fleming ballcarrier. Above, brothers Zane(left #2) and Zach Taylor celebrate after Zane recovered a Fleming fumble.

PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Terriers wrap up regular season with "Senior Night" tonight

The William Byrd volleyball team will wrap up the regular season tonight with a home match against Staunton River. The Blue Ridge District tournament will begin next Tuesday at sites yet to be determined.

The Terriers are hoping to even their overall record tonight, as they stand at 9-10 after two close losses in the past week. Byrd is 6-3 in Blue Ridge District matches while playing one of the toughest non-district schedules in the greater Roanoke Valley area.

Byrd is hoping to make some noise in the post-season. In the BRD Byrd has lost to Lord Botetourt twice and Franklin County once. The Terriers lost to both of those teams in the past week in five sets, with a fifth set that could have gone either way in both.

"Obviously, losing two consecutive five-set matches is difficult, especially when you know how much these young ladies have invested in themselves, their teammates, and this program," said Byrd coach Kris McCoy. "But I couldn't be prouder of their effort and their willingness to compete. What people don't always see in the final score is the growth taking place within this team. We're learning how to handle adversity, how to trust one another, and how to compete with confidence against quality opponents."

Last Thursday the Terriers hosted Lord Botetourt, who will be the top seed in next week's district tournament. LB won the first set, 25-21, but Byrd bounced back to take the second, 25-18. Botetourt regained the lead with a 25-20 win in the third set and had the Terriers on the ropes in the fourth before Byrd fought back for a 28-26 decision to tie things up at two sets each. Botetourt then rallied for a win in the fifth set to 15 by a 15-13 score after Byrd had the lead, 13-11, late in the set.

Heidi Dixon had 16 kills and four blocks against Botetourt. Haleigh White had nine kills, 13 digs and three aces while Emma Oivit had seven kills. Catalina Patterson had four kills and 33 assists, Maggie Zimmerman had 15 digs and Ellie Ruble dug out 12 and served up a pair of aces.

Byrd was on the bus to Rocky Mount Tuesday and had another nail-biter with Franklin County. After losing the first set, 25-18, Byrd rallied to win the next two, 27-25 and 25-12. The Eagles tied the match in the fourth set with a two-point win, 25-23, and pulled out a 15-12 win in the fifth and deciding set.

White had 13 kills and 13 digs at Franklin. Dixon had 10 kills and three blocks, Olivit had six kills and three blocks and Patterson had 28 assists.

The Terriers are hoping to finish the regular season with a win tonight, and it's also Senior Night in Vinton. Byrd seniors are Dixon, Zimmerman and Lauren Toney.

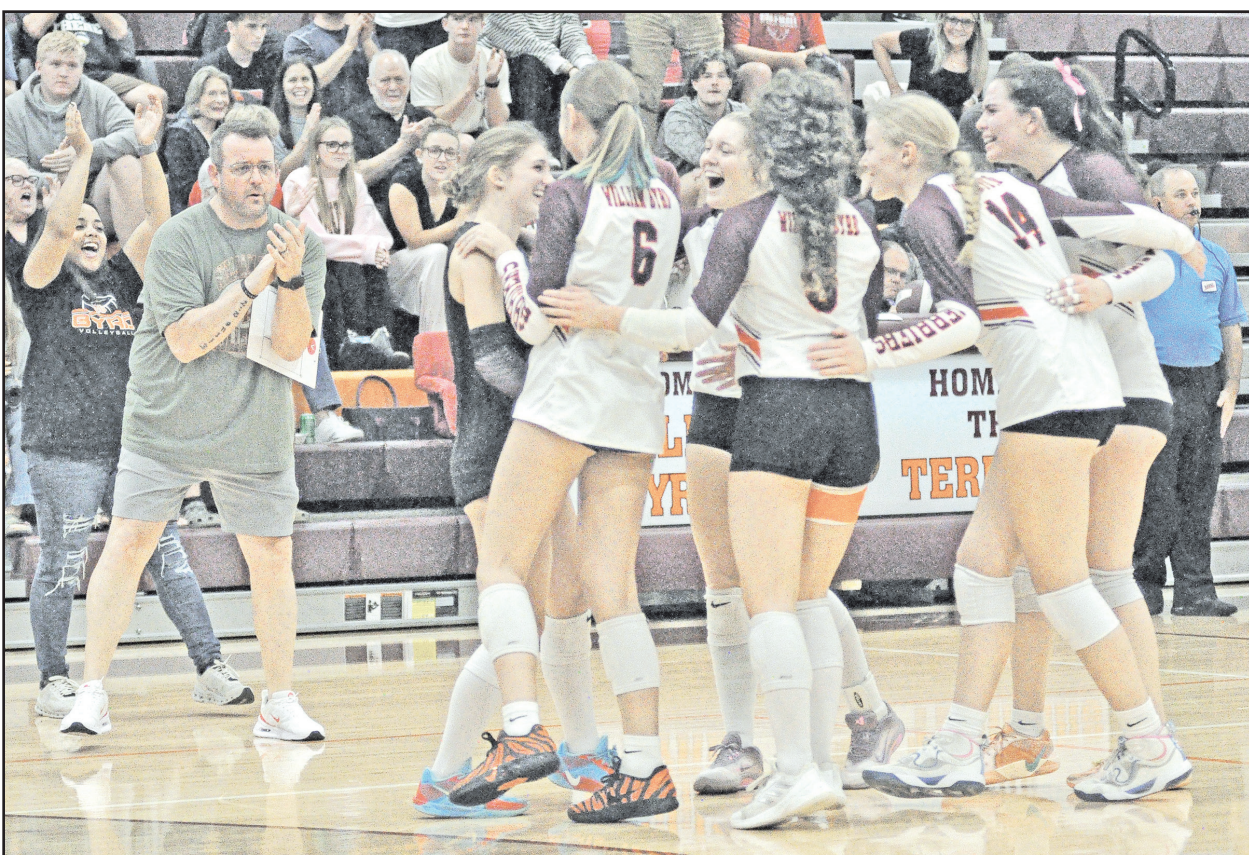
"Senior Night is always emotional because you realize just how quickly the opportunity to coach these young ladies passes," said McCoy. "Our seniors have helped lay the foundation for the culture we're building, and their impact will extend far beyond their time wearing a William Byrd jersey. They've helped establish expectations, embraced change, and shown our younger players what it

means to represent this program. I want Thursday to be a celebration of who they are, what they've accomplished, and the legacy they're leaving behind."

McCoy is hoping Byrd's tough schedule and continuing improvement pay off when the post-season begins next week.

"There's still volleyball left to play, and I don't

believe this group's story is finished," he said. "We've shown that we can compete with some very good teams. Now the challenge is finding the consistency and composure to finish those matches. The postseason gives us another opportunity to put everything we've learned into action, and that's what makes this time of year so exciting."



Above, Byrd girls celebrate a point in last week's match with Lord Botetourt. Below left, Maggie Zimmerman serves and, below right, Haleigh White hits a spike.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

